

November 9–15: Daniel 1–7, “There is No Other God that Can Deliver”

Overview

Daniel was a contemporary of Lehi and would have been living in Jerusalem around the time Lehi and his family were commanded to leave.

When Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, first conquered the region of Judah, he took many of the most capable, intelligent, and prominent Jews captive to Babylon, before the later siege and destruction of Jerusalem.

Dan 1:3-5

3 ¶ And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;
4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

What do these verses teach us about the Israelites who were selected to serve in the king's palace and how they were treated during their training?

(well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science
the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years)

L. Tom Perry

"Then, to make his nation even stronger, [Nebuchadnezzar] took hostage all of the bright and promising children of the Israelites....

"Daniel was one of those who was taken back to the palace as a slave of Nebuchadnezzar, to be trained in the king's ways in order that Nebuchadnezzar might use him and his knowledge to make his empire stronger." (CR, Oct. 1985)

Daniel Earns the King's Respect

Daniel refused to eat the meat or drink the wine provided by the king. Instead, he asked to be given pulse—seeds and grains such as peas, wheat, barley, and rye—and water.

Dan 1:8-15

8 ¶ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion

of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

What do you think motivated Daniel to refuse the king's meat and wine?

- The type of meat and the way it was prepared probably did not conform to the requirements of the Mosaic law.

L. Tom Perry

"Daniel's strategy was most interesting. He did not challenge the beliefs of the Babylonians. Instead, he volunteered to conduct a test as to which way was best. The servant agreed to the test. For the next ten days, Daniel and those who were with him ate and drank only of the things that they knew they should. At the end of the tenth day, Daniel and his friends were found to be healthier and stronger than all the rest. Daniel soon found that he did not have to adopt a different standard of values when he was 'in the world.'" (CR, Oct. 1985)

The Lord blessed Daniel and his three companions, and the king appointed them to serve in his court because he found them superior "in all matters of wisdom and understanding."

Dan 1:17,20

17 ¶ As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that he wanted his wise men to interpret. To ensure that they were giving him an honest interpretation, he required them to tell him both the dream and its interpretation.

Many of the wise men told the king that his request was unreasonable because no one could know what he had dreamed. In response, the king ordered that the wise men be put to death.

Daniel asked the king for time so that he could discover the dream and its interpretation. He and his three companions prayed that the Lord would reveal the king's dream and its meaning to them.

Dan 2:25-28

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

How did Daniel use this opportunity to testify of God and His power?

(there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days)

Daniel recounts Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Dan 2:31-35

31 ¶ Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.



What destroyed the image, and what happened to it after it was broken to pieces?

(a stone was cut out without hands
became like the chaff of the summer threshing
floors; and the wind carried them away, that no
place was found for them
the stone that smote the image became a great
mountain, and filled the whole earth)

Orson Pratt

"The kingdom of God was entirely distinct from this great image. It formed no part of it, but it was represented as a stone cut out of the mountain without hands. That stone smote the image on the feet-not on the head, nor upon any other portion of the body: it was first to commence its operations upon the feet and toes of the great image; and then the feet, toes, legs, breast, arms, and head were to be broken to pieces, and become like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind was to carry away the whole image, and there was to be no place to be found for it, while the little stone was to increase to such a magnitude that it should fill the whole earth; and the dominion, even the greatness of the dominion under the whole heavens was to be given to the Saints of the Most High." (JD, 7:217)

Daniel explains the meaning of the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Dan 2:37-41

37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

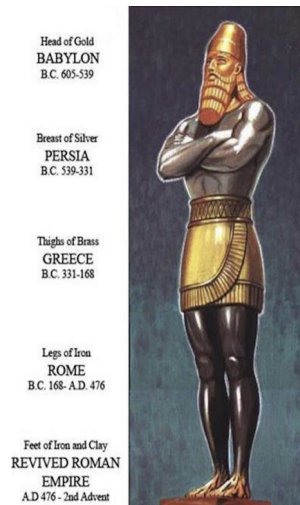
40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

What kingdoms are represented by the five different parts of the image?

Rudger Clawson

“The Christian world of today is witness of the fact that the very things which the great image stood for have occurred so far as time has gone. History certifies to the fact that King Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. The Persians, an inferior kingdom to Babylon, were the arms and breast of silver. The Greet kingdom, under Alexander the Great, was the belly and thighs of brass; and the Roman kingdom under the Caesars was the legs of iron. Finally, the Roman empire was broken up into smaller kingdoms, represented by the feet and toes of iron and clay.” (CR, Apr 1930)



Regarding the feet and toes:

Orson Pratt

“The feet and toes were governments more modern to grow out of the iron kingdom [Roman Empire], after it should lose its strength. These are represented by the ten toes or ten kingdoms which should be partly strong and partly broken. They should not have the strength of the legs of iron, but they should be mixed with clay, indicating both strength and weakness.” (JD, 18:337)

Daniel explains the meaning of the stone in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.

Dan 2:44-45

44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.
45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

What is the kingdom represented by the stone that was “cut out of the mountain

without hands”?

(God of heaven set up a kingdom)

D&C 65

2 The keys of the kingdom of God are committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.

What do these verses teach us about the characteristics and destiny of the stone?

(God of heaven set up a kingdom
which shall never be destroyed
and the kingdom shall not be left to other people
but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms
and it shall stand for ever)

Brigham Young

“The Lord God Almighty has set up a kingdom that will sway the scepter of power and authority over all the kingdoms of the world, and will never be destroyed, it is the kingdom that Daniel saw and wrote of.... The kingdom will continue to increase, to grow, to spread and prosper more and more. Every time its enemies undertake to overthrow it, it will become more extensive and powerful; instead of its decreasing, it will continue to increase, it will spread the more, become more wonderful and conspicuous to the nations, until it fills the whole earth.” (JD, 1:202)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego

A 90-foot-tall golden statue of King Nebuchadnezzar was erected near Babylon. The people were commanded to bow down and worship the image whenever music was played nearby. Anyone who refused to do so would be put to death by being thrown into a fiery furnace.

Dan 3:8-13

8 ¶ Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

9 They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.

10 Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

11 And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

12 There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

13 ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach,

Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king.

How did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego demonstrate their obedience to God when faced with persecution?

(these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up)

Spencer W. Kimball

“We remind ourselves of the integrity of the three Hebrews, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who like Daniel defied men and rulers, to be true to themselves and to keep faith with their faith....

"Neither the cunning of the deceivers, the conspiring, cunning tricksters, nor the fear of the king and what he could do to them, dissuaded the three courageous young men from their true path of rightness. When the prearranged sounds of the cornet, flute, harp and other instruments reverberated through the area and the masses of men and women everywhere filled their homes and the streets with kneeling worshippers of the huge golden image, three men refused to insult their true God. They prayed to God, and when confronted by the raging and furious emperor king, they courageously answered in the face of what could be certain death." ("Integrity", BYU Speeches of the Year, 25 Feb. 1964)

Enraged by their disobedience, the king commanded that the three companions be thrown into a fiery furnace heated to seven times its usual temperature.

An angel of God joined them in the furnace, protecting them from the intense heat.

Dan 3:23-27

23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

26 ¶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

What did Nebuchadnezzar and his servants observe that demonstrated the

miraculous nature of the three men's deliverance?

(Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed)

Howard W. Hunter

"Then transpired one of those great miracles to which the faithful are entitled according to the will of God. These three young men stood and walked about calmly in the midst of the furnace and were not burned. Indeed, when they were later called out of the furnace by the astonished king himself, their clothing was untarnished, their skin was free from any burn, not a hair of their head was singed. Not even the smell of smoke had come upon these courageous, committed young men." (CR, April 1990)

The king commanded everyone to show reverence for the God of Israel.

Dan 3:28-29

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

What do Nebuchadnezzar's words and actions reveal about how the miracle changed his view of the God of Israel?

(Blessed be the God... who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him
that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.
Therefore I make a decree... because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort)

Lorenzo Snow

"When Nebuchadnezzar saw four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, unhurt; and the fourth like unto the Son of God Dan. How changed was the scene! Nebuchadnezzar was converted by the power that he saw manifested, and he issued a decree saying, 'That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill.' In this way was the Lord able to touch the heart of a heathen king, and to turn the heart of a nation." (JD, 23:288)

The Writing on the Wall

Belshazzar succeeded Nebuchadnezzar as king of Babylon. During a feast, he commanded that wine be served in the sacred vessels that had been taken from the temple in Jerusalem.

Dan 5:3-5

3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

What great sin did Belshazzar and his guests commit during the feast?

(they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple... drank in them
and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone)

Daniel is summoned to interpret the writing on the wall.

Dan 5:22-31

22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this:

23 But hast lifted up thyself against the LORD of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

26 This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

What consequences did Belshazzar suffer for his pride and blasphemy against

the Lord?

(thou... hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this
they have brought the vessels of his house... have drunk wine in them
thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and
stone
Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting)

Joseph L. Wirthlin

"Is there not something that can be brought about to awaken the American people to a destiny of degradation...? As in ancient days when the finger of the God of Israel wrote the doom of Babylon, this same penalty hangs over any nation that forgets God to the extent that the Bible is found in few homes and where the youth of the country are not familiar with the teachings of Holy Scripture. Yes, just as Babylon was called to an accounting by the God of Israel, so will the people of this great nation be called to an accounting for permitting youth and old alike to be indoctrinated with the principles of the evil one." (CR, April 1947)

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Daniel served as one of King Darius's advisors and was favored by the king above the other officials. Jealous of Daniel's standing, the other leaders conspired to bring about his downfall and have him put to death.

Dan 6:3-7

3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

4 ¶ Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

5 Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

6 Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.

7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

What did the king's leaders identify as Daniel's weakness, and how did they plan to exploit it?

(We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God
make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions)

Nevertheless, Daniel continued to pray to God, just as he had always done.

Dan 6:10-11

10 ¶ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.
11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

The king's leaders informed him that Daniel had violated the decree and reminded him that he was obligated to enforce it. The king was deeply distressed to find himself in this situation.

Dan 6:16-18

16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.
17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.
18 ¶ Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

What do the king's words to Daniel and his actions that night reveal about his feelings toward Daniel and his faith in Daniel's God?

(Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting
the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den
the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest
continually, he will deliver thee)

Dan 6:19-23

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.
20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?
21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.
22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.
23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

What reasons did Daniel give for why the Lord had preserved his life?

(My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me
because an excellent spirit was in him
because he believed in his God)

Thomas S. Monson

“Great riches and power had been offered to Daniel, rewards representing the things of the world and not of God. Daniel resisted and remained faithful.

“Later, when Daniel worshipped God despite a decree declaring such to be forbidden, he was thrown into a den of lions. The biblical account tells us that the following morning, ‘Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in ... God.’ In a time of critical need, Daniel’s determination to steer a steady course yielded divine protection and provided a sanctuary of safety. Such protection and safety can be ours as we also steer that steady course toward our eternal home.” (CR, Oct. 2014)

The king issued a decree declaring that the God of Israel is the true and living God.

Dan 6:25-28

25 ¶ Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and steadfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

How did king Darius change as a result of this miraculous event?

- Like Nebuchadnezzar, he saw the power of the true and living God and decreed that He be allowed to be worshiped

(I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God)

Lorenzo Snow

“When the three Hebrew children, for instance, had been brought to a certain position... a holy being, it is said, appeared and walked with them, side by side in the midst of the flames; and so with Daniel under similar

circumstances. Did they wait to see what God would do for them? No;... they knew that in the hands of their Master were held the issues of life and death, and... having an abiding faith, and a knowledge of the true and living God they were ready to live and they were ready to die for the truth.... They were in possession of knowledge through the operation of the Holy Ghost which prepared them for any circumstances in which they might be placed.” (JD, 23:150)

Daniel's Vision of the Four Beasts

Daniel had a similar vision, but instead of the kingdoms being represented by parts of a magnificent image, they were represented by beasts that were terrifying and destructive.

Dan 7:2-7,17

2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

The 4 beasts are equivalent to the 4 parts of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream



Let's read more about the fourth beast, which represents the Roman Empire.

Dan 7:19,23

19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

How would the Roman Empire differ from the kingdoms that came before it, and what do the descriptions of the beast teach us about its power and conquests?

(diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful
which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet
shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces)

Dan 7:8,20-25

8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.



What do these verses reveal about the little horn's power and its opposition to God?

(the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.
And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: made war with the saints, and prevailed against them and [the saints] shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time (Adam-ondi-Ahman))

Sidney B. Sperry

“May I suggest that the last beast which Daniel saw, which was so terrible and which had a mouth speaking great things, *is none other than the ‘great and abominable church’* of our modern scriptures.... The Book of Mormon speaks at length concerning this evil force in the world that shall meet destruction.” (The Voice of Israel's Prophets, pg. 260–61)

When would the “little horn” arise in relation to the ten horns (kings) of the fourth beast?

(I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn)

- We learn from the Book of Mormon that the “great and abominable church” arises after the words of the twelve apostles are received (the New Testament) but before the Gentiles cross the sea to the promised land. This timing would align with the appearance of the “little horn.”

When will the “little horn” cease its persecution of the Saints?

(until a time and times and the dividing of time
Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High)

More about Adam-ondi-Ahman

Dan 7:9-14

9 ¶ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I

beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Joseph Fielding Smith

“Daniel speaks of the coming of Christ, and that day is near at hand. There will be a great gathering in the Valley of Adam-ondi-Ahman; there will be a great council held. The Ancient of Days, who is Adam, will sit. The righteous who have held keys will make their reports and deliver up their keys and ministry. Christ will come, and Adam will make his report. At this council Christ will be received and acknowledged as the rightful ruler of the earth. Satan will be replaced. Following this event every government in the world will have to become part of the government of God. Then righteous rule will be established. The earth will be cleansed; the wicked will be destroyed; and the reign of peace will be ushered in.” (Doctrines of Salvation, 3:13–14)